

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S JOBS CABINET

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The rise of globalization in the 21st century has created an entirely new marketplace for talented individuals – one where Colorado not only competes with Massachusetts and California, but with India and Japan as well. In order for Colorado to compete nationally and internationally, we need to create a sustainable workforce for this state – and to do that, we must align the goals of our business community with the goals of our education and workforce communities.

One of the strengths of this state is our diversity – we cannot find a one-sized fits all solution that will benefit the people of this state. Each region in this state has its own needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. To address this issue, the Jobs Cabinet has been split into five subcommittees by economic region: the Eastern Plains, Western Slope, Mountain Resorts, San Luis Valley and the Front Range. As part of the first phase of its work, the Jobs Cabinet has been holding community outreach meetings in these regions over the past two months.

Each community outreach meeting includes representatives from higher education, K-12, workforce, local business and economic development. During these meeting, the group is asked to identify their long-term goals for the Jobs Cabinet, as well as potential issues, demographics and industries in their regions. The matrix below summarizes the group's discussion and goals for this particular session.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website.

Sincerely,

The Jobs Cabinet Co-Chairs

Jim Lyons

Teresa Taylor

Ruth Ann Woods

FRONT RANGE REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING GOALS

Colorado Springs, Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Attraction, Retention and System Sustainability	System Alignment	Growth in Regional Industries	Regional Partnerships	Action Plan
Develop a global competitive strategy that includes developing an internal and external talent pipeline to help attract the best people and provide opportunities for all. Additionally, the strategy should create conditions for success that includes creating market incentives and building infrastructure.	Develop educational standards to meet the needs of employers.	Identify, develop and grow our signature industry clusters	Establish and grow working partnerships with public and private sector, community and education that will result in talent development efforts and lifelong learning to support a robust, competitive, diverse and dynamic economy.	Create an explicit, funded a regional action plan that partners business and educational efforts to ensure a successful future workforce and robust industry outcomes.
Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success
Attract new businesses that employ Colorado residents as well as other national and global talent to fill our needs.	Increased enrollment in technical education and STEM programs	Increase in Jobs in the high-tech fields	Better intersection and partnerships between educators and employers (and parents)	Regional action plan linked to the state plan and encompassing talent development
Invest in quality job attraction and retention (It takes more than mountains) and position Colorado for global success	Increased in vocational and career programs in high school.	R&D breakthroughs for energy and life sciences	Greater alignment between business and education to ensure needed skills and talent development	Clear action steps for industry in order to prepare a future workforce
Higher retention rates of locally educated and trained workforce.	Improved High School graduation rate	Continued and increased tourism in rural areas	Better vertical alignment of job opportunities.	Align and leverage both public and private funding streams

ISSUES, DEMOGRAPHICS, INDUSTRIES, STRENGTHS AND PARTNERSHIPS
Colorado Springs, Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Targeted Demographics or Populations	Regional Strengths	Regional Economic Drivers over the next 10 years	Issues in the Valley	Partnerships
Gifted and talented population	Short commute time relative to comparable communities; convenient and modern airport	Aerospace/Defense	Lack of engagement between business and educators	Must be a clear statewide policy about creating partnerships between business, education and workforce
ESL	31 schools of higher education, including UCCS. High relative post-secondary graduation rate	Software Development and high tech	Diffused educational leadership K-12	Community College – business partnerships based on creating curriculums and internships
Physically and Mentally disabled population	Active lifestyle, good work ethic, low cost of living	Sports Industry	Perception that this region is not very progressive	Business-underwritten programs
Hispanic and Rural Communities; single parents	Low crime rate, growing and diverse population	Tourism	Tax base is so low government cannot maintain infrastructure	Increase co-op/intern opportunities
Ex-offenders	Temperate Climate	Bioscience/Medical Device	High mobility population that does not claim Colorado as their home and may not have long-term interests in the state	Foundations partner with communities
Elderly and Retirees	Highly educated and involved retirees		Lack of childcare for a growing population	
Military and Returning Veterans	Funded and supported cultural and sports institutions		Lack of public transportation	
Economically disadvantaged and Under-educated populations	Low tax rate		Who will convene the partners to create collective identity and breakdown the silos?	
Youth, especially Hispanic and African-American demographics	Weaknesses: funding for the future, incorrect reputation, few economic incentives, PTSD population			

